

# Forest Way School Newsletter



Summer 2025

## A Word From Gail

I'm pleased to let you know that the transfer to OTP MAT on June 1st went smoothly and we have started to plan together. The Amazon Internship is our first exciting joint venture, see the write up below.

Look out also for information soon about our new system ARBOR that we will be using to communicate with you.

Staff are currently working hard to ensure that our transition days run smoothly,

Please let us know if you have any questions about that or anything else.

*Gail*

## Diary Dates

Wednesday 2nd July	Post 16 Prom
3rd and 4th July	Pupil Transition Days
<b>Tuesday 8th July 3:20pm</b>	<b>Last day before the start of the Summer Holidays</b>
Monday 25th August	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 26 August 8:50am</b>	<b>School Opens for Autumn Term 2025</b>

## Mark Wilson – Head of School Primary

It's been a really positive start to my time at Forest Way School. Since joining at Easter, I've appreciated the warm welcome from staff, pupils, and families, and it's been fantastic getting to know everyone.

One highlight this term was the EYFS and Key Stage 1 trip to Twycross Zoo. The children had a brilliant time and approached the day with real curiosity and enthusiasm. Thank you to the parents who supported the trip—your involvement helped make it a memorable experience for everyone.

There's also been a noticeable buzz around our outdoor areas. The new play equipment and sensory garden spaces have been really well received, and it's been great to see how pupils are making the most of these areas for play, exploration, and quiet reflection.

Our Post 16 Play Leaders have also made a real difference during breaktimes, supporting KS2 pupils and contributing to a positive atmosphere. Their involvement has been a wonderful example of pupil advocacy and leadership in action, strengthening relationships across the school and creating some lovely moments of play and engagement.

Thank you for your support throughout this first term. I'm looking forward to the new academic year and to continuing the work already underway to help every young person succeed and thrive. Have a great Summer and see you for more fun and adventures in August.



## Sarah Wallace – Head of School Secondary

It is truly wonderful to be writing this as Head of School for our Secondary students. Our dedicated team of staff have put in a tremendous effort during the summer term to ensure that as many students as possible can enjoy a school trip or visit. One of the standout experiences was undoubtedly the Year 9 residential at Lea Green Activity Centre, where we spent two nights. For many of the twelve students, it was their first time staying away from home and away from their parents and carers. I am proud to report that there were no tears at bedtime! Each student rose to the challenges presented and wholeheartedly embraced the various activities, with the high ropes course and the slip and slide emerging as definite highlights.

Meanwhile, our Key Stage 4 students have been out and about in the community along with a few students who have been completing their Level 1 Forestry in the Community Award. We're keeping our fingers crossed that they will receive their well-deserved awards in the Autumn Term.

For several Key Stage 4 and Post 16 students, it has been exam season. Sian, our Post 16 Phase Leader, has overseen the entire process, with some students sitting their Entry Level 1 Functional Skills exams and a few managing to tackle the Entry Level 2 exams as well.

Our secondary students on the Life Skills Pathway have continued to focus on developing their communication and interaction skills with others and their surroundings. It has been a pleasure watching them grow, becoming more independent in expressing their wants and needs.

As we approach the end of this term, we must bid farewell to Martha Gerring-Smith, our Key Stage 3-4 Phase Leader, who is leaving to take up a promotional position at another school. We wish her all the best and thank her for her hard work and for setting aspirational expectations for all her students. Charlotte Anwyll will be stepping into this role at the start of the Autumn Term.

To all our students and their parents/carers, I wish you a fantastic summer holiday! I can't wait to hear about your adventures at the start of the Autumn Term.

Contacting Us - [parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk) if you need to get in touch outside of office hours

## Spring/Summer Adventures in Acorns 2

During the Spring term Acorns 2 had the opportunity to go swimming. All the children had a great time building up confidence in the water and demonstrating the skills that they have and have developed.

It was lovely to explore the new playground with the children in Acorns 3. They loved investigating the equipment and had a lot of fun.

One of our favourite activities is going to the Sensory Garden. Therefore, we held our Stay and Play with the parents/carers at Easter there. Everyone had a great time and it was really well supported.

The children enjoyed making 's'mores' with Kerry, our Forest Schools Practitioner, and going on an Easter Egg Hunt.

Thank you to all of our parents/carers who have supported us in many ways throughout this year.

Well done Acorns 3.



## Curve Dance Performance

On the Monday 12th May the Dance Club performed a choreographed dance piece at the Curve.

Special schools across Leicestershire collaborated and came together to put on a matinee and evening performance with the theme of Climate Change.

Forest Way dance club performed a dance piece titled- The Ever-Changing Weather. The students wore costumes kindly designed by Oaks 7 who had created the sun, rain and thunder through a tie-dye effect.

Oaks 10 came to support and watched the matinee performance with many staff and parents joining to watch the evening performance.

The dance students have worked incredibly hard, and we are extremely proud of the courage and dedication that went into the special event.

## Polite Notice

In case you are not aware, shoes that light up contain button batteries that could pose a danger if the batteries come out. Please ensure these are not worn by your child for school.





# Trips and Adventures in Acorns 12

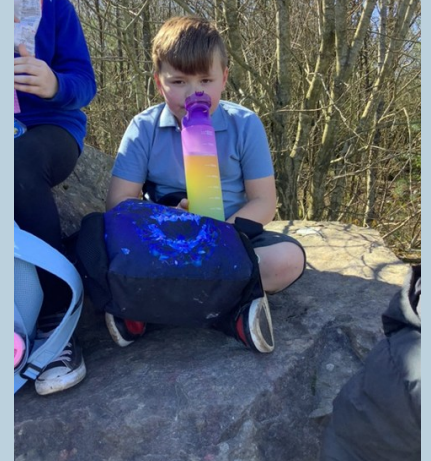
We are so proud of our Acorns 12 students and of their successes at Warren Hills School, along with all of the progress they have made! Here are some from more recent weeks.

Two of our students attended 'Vocalease', singing in front of an audience of people! They loved playing on the adventure equipment at Whitwick Leisure Centre to calm their nerves and get the wiggles out beforehand!

The children did amazingly well on their walk from Warren Hills school to the top of Bardon Hill and back again! It was a really long way uphill but there were no complaints, though plenty of tired legs after!

The children had a wonderful time at Snibston and had a guided tour of the colliery, getting the opportunity to take a glimpse of what mining life would have been like.

Other trips have included: an army boot camp day, the Sealife centre, a trip to Tamworth Castle – it has been a very busy and wonderful time for our children who work incredibly hard and deserve these experiences.



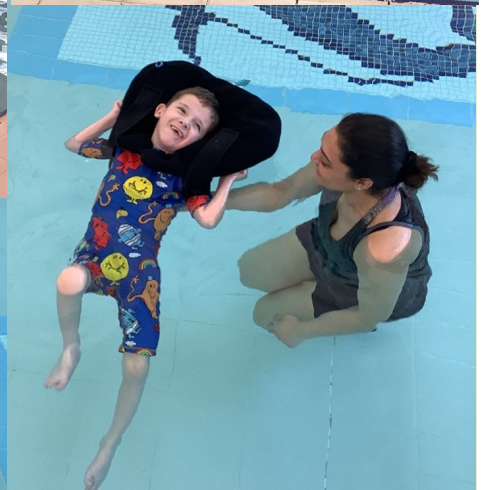
## Bath Bagel

Forest Way School have purchased some new swimming aids to enable some of the PMLD pupils to become more independent within their swimming and hydrotherapy sessions.

This swimming aid is called a 'Bath Bagel' and a rep from the company came out to fit and assess the pupils. We have now purchased our own and use these within the swimming sessions.

The students that use these are now much more independent and free within their swimming sessions and are fully supported by the Bath Bagel.

Some of the pupils now show great independent movement of their limbs that we have not seen before which has been **AMAZING** for the pupils and for the staff to see too!

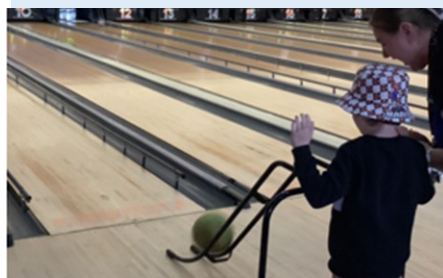




## Key Stage 2 Trips

The pupils in Key Stage 2 have been on trips this term. Some classes went bowling, whilst others visited theme parks.

All the pupils had an amazing time. There were a few strikes scored at the bowling and the buffalo rollercoaster at Twinlakes Park was a particular hit. All of the children were amazing representatives of our school and we could not be more proud of them.



## Spring and Summer Term Sport – Athletics

During the spring and summer term all students have been participating in athletics during their PE lessons, in preparation for sports day! Students across the school have been practising their fundamental movement skills, ready to be applied to athletics events. Older students have been learning and participating in different athletics events to achieve a personal best.

We have had a KS2, and KS3/4/5 athletics teams participate in the Leicestershire and Rutland Parallel Athletics Championships at Saffron Lane in Leicester. All the students had a fantastic time and strived to achieve their personal best and supported their teammates throughout the day. Well done Forest Way!





# Lea Green Centre Residential 2025

This year we took the Year 9 students on residential for 2 nights to Lea Green Centre in Matlock. This is the second year of running the residential and we all had a fantastic time. Lots of students stayed away from home for the first time and were absolutely fantastic! We enjoyed a range of activities including high ropes, buggies, archery, obstacle courses, soft play and Forest Schools sessions.

When we asked the students what their favourite part of the Lea Green Residential was, they said:

“Meadow Lodge”

“The Go Karts”

“The Slip and Slide”

“Playing in Soft Play”

“EVERYTHING”



## Fun in Oaks 6

Oaks 6 have had an action-packed time outdoors!

We loved celebrating VE Day in the sunshine with our peers, making the most of the beautiful weather. Our adventures continued with trips to the park using the school minibus, where we've been actively developing our life skills. At Forest School, we explored a variety of terrains, learned how to build fires, and had great fun cooking s'mores and bacon sandwiches. We also had some exciting visits from Bikeability, who brought along their adapted bikes so everyone could join in the cycling fun. What an incredible way to learn, grow, and enjoy





## Student Council Update

This term, the Student Council have been focusing on sustainability and how we can all do our part to help the environment. One of our main discussions has been about the new recycling bins around school. We've had a discussion with our Premises Officer, Neil, to make sure we know how to use them properly so we can pass the message on to classes and help everyone understand why recycling is so important.

We've also been planning a fun and eco-friendly event: the Big Game Exchange! This is a chance for classes and families to bring in unwanted games and swap. It's a great way to reduce waste, reuse what we already have, and share the fun with others. The Game Exchange will be open in Oaks 5, and we'll also be running it during the Summer Family Social on 26th June.



## Special Olympics

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, three of the students from Forest Way School participated in the Special Olympics. They all did incredibly well and won lots of medals, One student achieved a gold overall, another a silver overall and the third received the bronze overall. Well done! We are all very proud of you.



## Amazon Internship

Five of our Post 16 students have been successfully accepted onto a 30-week Internship programme at Amazon in Coalville.

This is being led by Project SEARCH: a one year internship program designed to help young people with learning disabilities and autism to gain the skills and experience needed to find employment in the future. It combines classroom instruction with hands-on real-world work place training. Project SEARCH are currently running 200 Internship programs at different companies across England with 8 internees at each setting.

The students have had a tour and introduction to Amazon with their parents a few weeks ago, and last week the prospective interns spent a day there. Part of the selection process was an interview with Amazon management and a skills assessment in the warehouse. All of the students who were assessed were offered the Internship. We were so proud of the way they conducted themselves on the day.

They are a credit to Forest Way School and we wish them every success with this new and exciting opportunity.

'I'm very happy about the opportunity and looking forward to starting in September. I think it is an amazing opportunity' Post 16 Intern

'I'm a bit nervous but I'm going to give it 100 %' Post 16 Intern